

SENATE BILL 2656

By Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-115, relative to consecutive sentences under certain circumstances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-115, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

(e)

(1) If the defendant is convicted of an offense involving a motor vehicle and there are two (2) or more victims of the offense, each victim shall constitute a separate offense and the sentences for each offense shall be served consecutively if:

(A) The offense results in serious bodily injury or death to the victims;

(B) The victims are first responders and the offense occurs during the course of the victim's duties as first responders; and

(C) The offense occurs while the first responders are:

(i) In route to a traffic accident or medical emergency;

(ii) At the scene of the accident or emergency rendering aid; or

(iii) In route to a hospital or other facility used for medical treatment following the accident or emergency.

(2) As used in this subsection, "first responder" means emergency medical or rescue workers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, law enforcement officers or firefighters.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.